

West 1869

the *Journal*  
1865

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THE LATE REV. JOHN ARMSTRONG, B. A.

On May 24th, the Rev. John Armstrong, Rector of St. Jude's, Carleton, departed this life, after a long period of failing health, which however did not prevent him from discharging the duties of his office until a comparatively short period before his death. The deceased gentleman was an Englishman by birth, born in the county of Essex, in the year 1787, and was consequently in his seventy-ninth year. He was a member of St. John's College, in the University of Cambridge, where he graduated in 1810, and was ordained to a curacy in Bedfordshire, which he held but for a short time, removing to another sphere of labour in the County of Middlesex. In 1812 he accepted the post of chaplain to the British settlement in Honduras, and was ordained a Priest by the Bishop of London: he arrived in the Bay of Honduras in the month of June in that year.

For twelve years Mr. Armstrong laboured in Honduras, and at the expiration of this period finding that the state of his health required a change, he felt himself under the necessity of resigning his charge, and returned to England in June 1824.

After a short interval of rest he accepted an appointment from the Bible Society, as their agent in South America. After a little while, he ceased to be so employed, and became chaplain to the English residents at Buenos Ayres, where through his exertions a Church was erected, which he served for seventeen years. At the end of this time he resigned his post, and returning to England took temporary charge of a parish. After a while his thoughts were again turned toward South America, and the Chaplaincy at Monte Video, which he had taken much interest in establishing, being vacant, on his application he was appointed to it, and he arrived at his sphere of duty in June, 1845. Here he continued for five years, when difficulties having arisen in the country, and war having broken

out, Mr. Armstrong determined to return to England and there spend the remainder of his days. Before doing so, however, he came to visit one of his family who was settled in this province, and the result was, that he became minister of a new parish then recently formed in St. John, and after holding several charges, at St. James's, and at the Necropolis, and at Lancaster, he finally settled down at St. Jude's, where he continued until his death.

For some time before his decease his health had failed, and early in April his end appeared drawing near. He then called his family around him, and some of his flock, and with them for the last time joined in the Holy Communion. He spoke of his departure, and the wonderful compassions of the Lord Jesus Christ to one so utterly undeserving as he felt himself to be. Contrary to every expectation, he was after this so far restored as to be able to go about the house, but only for a little while, during which he was called upon to endure much pain: but this God enabled him patiently to endure, until at length his sufferings being over, he departed in peace to await the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mr. Armstrong was a man of considerable firmness of character, holding closely to those theological views which he adopted in the earlier days of his ministry, and which at that time were identified with much of the religious life and activity of the Church of England, but his natural kindness of heart and true Christian principles always enabled him at once to recognize whatever good he saw in others who might not happen to be of his own school, and to live with them in peace and charity. We are sure that we only do justice to his character when we express an earnest hope that all, like him, may so strive to work and live in peace and love that God may be glorified in the extension of his Church and the salvation of the souls of men.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

We are sure that all our readers will be pleased to hear that his lordship the Bishop of the diocese, accompanied by Mrs. Medley, arrived at Liverpool in safety, on May 21, after a pleasant voyage. All will be glad to welcome the Bishop back to the province, after his visit to England.

We are glad to learn from the *Morning Journal* that it is the intention of the congregation of St. Paul's Church, Portland, familiarly known as the Valley Church, to replace the present decayed structure by a new and handsome building in stone. The new church is to be in the early English style and will cost, without the tower and spire, about \$10,000. The Vestry and Rector have fixed on a design prepared by Mr. Charles Walker, C.E., which, if carried out will we are told give a commodious and substantial as well as ornamental building. The sacred edifice will be one hundred feet, and the breadth across the transepts sixty feet; the nave will be thirty-five feet wide inside. There will be a tower and spire of the joint height of one hundred and twenty feet.

The annual meeting of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts* was held in St. James's Hall. Among those present were.—The Archbishop of York, Earl Percy, Lord Sidmouth, the Bishops of

London, Gloucester and Bristol, Grahamstown, Quebec, Huron, and Brisbane, the Dean of Canterbury, the Rev. Canon Hawkins, I. D. Acland, Esq., M.P., the Hon. F. Lygon, M.P., A. Lefroy, Esq., M.P., Sir J. Anson, Sir W. Burton, and many clergymen and laymen. At two o'clock the chair was taken by the Archbishop of York, and the meeting was opened by prayer, after which the secretary read extracts from the report. The Archbishop of York said that the society had never stood in a more interesting or important position than at present—

The society had lost during the year the services of the secretary, who had served them indefatigably for twenty-five years—the Rev. Canon Hawkins. He had been appointed by the Queen Canon of Westminster, and though he had resigned his office he would be near them to evince his interest in the society. This change of officers had led to a review of the state of the society, which it was thought needful to re-organise. When we saw that in 1839 the income of the society was sixteen thousand pounds, that it was now ninety-one thousand pounds, that the number of parishes contributing had increased from two hundred and ninety to seven thousand two hundred and seventy, that the one hundred and eighty missionaries had increased to five hundred, and that instead of eight dioceses in the year 1839 there were now forty-three